

Grade 7 Sample Test Prompt

Conventions

Going to the movies is a major source of entertainment for many students. Imagine that the only discount theater in your area is closing.

Write a persuasive essay in support of keeping the discount movie theater open .

Your writing should:

- Include a thesis statement.
- Have a developed point of view.
- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization .

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

CONVENTIONS

<p>6</p> <p>The writing demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions; manipulation of conventions may occur for stylistic effect. • strong, effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little or no need for editing. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that they do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong control of conventions. • effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. • correct spelling, even of more difficult words. • paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style. • skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece. • little need for editing. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control over conventions used, although a wide range is not demonstrated. • correct end-of-sentence punctuation, internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect. • spelling that is usually correct, especially on common words. • basically sound paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure. • correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor. • occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage; problems are not severe enough to distort meaning or confuse the reader. • moderate need for editing.
<p>3</p> <p>The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some control over basic conventions; the text may be too simple to reveal mastery. • end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors. • spelling errors that distract the reader; misspelling of common words occurs. • paragraphs that sometimes run together or begin at ineffective places. • capitalization errors. • errors in grammar and usage that do not block meaning but do distract the reader. • significant need for editing. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little control over basic conventions. • many end-of-sentence punctuation errors; internal punctuation contains frequent errors. • spelling errors that frequently distract the reader; misspelling of common words often occurs. • paragraphs that often run together or begin in ineffective places. • capitalization that is inconsistent or often incorrect. • errors in grammar and usage that interfere with readability and meaning. • substantial need for editing. 	<p>1</p> <p>Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very limited skill in using conventions. • basic punctuation (including end-of-sentence punctuation) that tends to be omitted, haphazard, or incorrect. • frequent spelling errors that significantly impair readability. • paragraph breaks that may be highly irregular or so frequent (every sentence) that they bear no relation to the organization of the text. • capitalization that appears to be random. • a need for extensive editing.

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

I heard the movies are clond it make me
 mad be c use kids hagt and it is
 safer thax wod fare and git hit by a
 car. and kids go in a grod to the
 movies and your ud go nona dated
 if the movies ant on pe kids will
 will be woct +V.

Score point 1 – Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. There is a need for extensive editing.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

I p 5 A vote for them to keep the theater open. so It will keep kids out of the street and if they don't have A T.V. or V.C.B what do you think there going to do they're going to still them from people's home's and store's but if you keep the theater open. All they have to do is go to the theater and pay the discount and watch a movie instead of stealing, and also It will give kids and people things to do after they get out of school or get off of work, and Families can take they're children and That is why I vote to keep the discount theater open.

Score point 2 – The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent errors impede readability. The paper has errors in usage (they're for their) and inconsistent capitalization (A for a; Them for them; and From for from). There is a significant need for editing.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

Closing the movies

The day they were going to close the movie theater. I was walking to a store and I past by the movie theater and they were going to close it down. I tried my hardest to convince them but it didn't work. I ask why are you closing, "because its get really old." Whats getting really old, "the theater." I gathered all of my friends and we started a streak to convince the manger to open the movie theater. I went to talk to the whole town to inform them that they were going to close the movie theater. We were very, very, upset.

The second day at the movie theater. I went to go talk to the manger and asked him why are you closing it down but he never answered he was very upset. Then I asked him do you need more help but he never answered. "It's because we been in lots of problems and my workers are so bazy that they neve sometimes want to clean the movie theater." Do you need more help cause

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Writing**FINAL COPY**

me and my friend were looking for a job cause were six-teen and we can help you around the theater cleaning it up for you. we were so happy we got the job.

The day we got the job at the movie theater. Ever sence we got to job there hasn't been any problems. we were asstinance manger cause we convinced them to keep the theater open. The movie theater will never closed down again cause we will keep it organzied. That was a great day for me and my best friend.

Score point 3 – The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions. Errors begin to impede readability. There is misspelling of common words (sence, tryed, past). Punctuation, especially of dialogue, is inconsistent and confusing.

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Eventhough some people would give up, that would be my very last resort. Movies are a big part of my life and I won't just give that away. If I heard of this news, I would first go to the manager, then a protest and finally, my very last resort would be to give up.

If I heard my theater was going to shut down, I would go to the manager and try to talk it out. If talking wasn't work, I'll beg him. Now, if this doesn't work, I would try a guilt trip. Since theaters have candy, I would tell them it would be like taking candy from a baby. Well if all else fails, I guess I would ask if they could spare the theater at the very least. Why I would do this, is because then I can ask for another business to take over.

Next, if those ideas do not work, I would call my friend and have them call their friends and so on. Now with a bigger group I can have a good protest. We would organize. In other words, get people to know what their doing. Now the last step would be to make signs. This would get the group more into it.

Finally, If nothing can save our theater, I would go to another city. Anything to see a good movie. Knowing it would be a good theater I would ask them to move to my own city. Hopefully they could but if they don't, at least we have one theater. Hopefully, I could help but, at least I tried and I can go to sleep happily.

In conclusion, I would do anything I could

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to save my local theater. Movies are a big part of my life and I refuse to just give that up. I know I am only a kid, but at least I know I tried. I'll fight to keep such a big part of my life with me.

Score point 4 – The writer demonstrates control over standard writing conventions. Minor errors do not impede readability. There is correct end-of-sentence punctuation but internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect. Capitalization of “If” when not beginning a sentence and misspelling of “tried” and “organize” are noticeable.



Writing**FINAL COPY**

This theatre that you have chosen to close should not be taken away from those that it is important to. This theatre is drastically needed more than you think it is. Everyday, thousands of children and families attend all of the interesting, exciting, affordable movies that are shown there at that very theatre. If it is closed, I ask you, what is there to look forward to. This theatre means so much to this city, and it plays such an important role in the life of many of the innocent souls that occupy it. If this theatre is taken away, so many memories will be lost forever.

I remember so many times when I was a small child, I would wake up early on a bright, beautiful, Saturday morning and sit there and wonder about what movie I should see today. I would then think to myself, "Should I see one of those breathtaking mysteries that keeps you guessing until the very end? Or no, maybe I could go to a horrifying, thrilling, monster movie that gives you nightmares for the next three weeks." But whatever movie I decided on, I was never once in my life disappointed one bit.

I'm not the only one who has enjoyed the opportunities given at this theatre. Men, women, and children all around the city feel this same compassion. This theatre is definitely one of the best things that has happened to this town. So far, it has always been that if you wanted to see a movie, there was no hassle at all. Families and friends go to a movie of their choice and not have to worry about paying too

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much or not being able to afford it. This theatre is a way for people express and enjoy themselves and the company of their surroundings.

If you close this theatre, you will be taking much more away from us than a beaten down, old, worthless building. You will be taking the joy and memories that have taken place and the ones that would be destined to follow. I am begging you with all my heart to please not do this to our community. Please, just think about what you are doing. Don't take away possibly the one thing that makes this city so great and true. This theatre means too much to everyone to just throw it away and forget about it completely.

Score point 5 – The writer demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Both end of sentence and internal punctuation is done well. The correct use of quotation marks in paragraph two stands out. There is little need for editing.

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A student's only wish is to have a little fun in the company of their friends without throwing away twenty dollars. Why take away their only freedom? Going to movies at the discount theatre has been a recreational form of entertainment, common to students, for many years. This local theatre has provided students with freedom from the boring classroom, some extra cash, and a safe environment. So why end the winning streak? Closing the local discount theatre would do just that.

Sitting in a classroom five days a week, for at least six hours a day can make a person very dull and stiff. What's better than an afternoon movie to loosen them up? Gazing up at the glowing movie screen, while reclining in a comfy theatre seat is a great way to enjoy some good, clean fun. While admiring your favorite actor or actress, you can also be munching on popcorn or candy. Students love a chance to relax and soak it all in, while not having to stress about grades or homework. Movie theatres are like a home away from home. The best part about catching the latest flick with your friends is doing it for close to nothing.

It's not like you are wasting money at the discount theatre, either. The discount theatre shows great movies for an inexpensive price. While most theatres charge more than it costs to rent a movie from a video store, the discount theatre offers a completely affordable price for students. Managers of the theatre understand that students aren't raking in the cash and they keep this in mind when charging for movie snacks, too. Popcorn, candy, and drinks may cost a fortune at regular theatres,

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but at the local, discount theatre, five bucks should be enough. This is the reason student customers keep coming back. If the theatre were to close, many people would argue that their money is being wasted at other theatres, where the snacks, security level, and movie quality may not be as good.

Security is major concern of parents today, and letting their kids go to a movie without supervision can be very stressful. However, at the discount theatre, parents can trust that their child is safe. Many young and old adults can afford to enjoy regular theatres which means they would not be bothersome to students at the discount theatre. Not many adults are found lingering around the discount movie theatre, which lowers the chance of a student being harmed. The managing team is also very responsible and knows that if anything harms the students, parents will become involved. Managers take their job very seriously to ensure the safety of students - one of the benefits of the discount theatre.

In conclusion, the discount theatre has a special place in many hearts and closing it would anger many people. Students' entertainment would be taken away, their money would be wasted at other theatres, and their parents' trust would be tested. If the local discount theatre has so much to offer, why close it down? Why end the winning streak?

Score point 6 – The writer demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions. There is a strong, effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text. Internal punctuation of compound and complex sentences, as well as the correct use of a dash, are evidence of control. There is little need for editing.